



National Institutes of Health
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January 25, 2010

Dr. Christine Augustyniak
U.S. National Coordinator for the
OECD Test Guidelines Program
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building, Mail Code 7509P
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Dr. Augustyniak:

On behalf of NICEATM, ICCVAM, and the ICCVAM Dermal Corrosivity Irritation Working Group (DCIWG), we are pleased to provide the attached minor comments on the proposed revised draft OECD Test Guideline (TG) for *In Vitro* Skin Irritation: Reconstructed Human *Epidermis* (RhE) Test Method. These comments are in response to the December 11, 2009 notification from the OECD requesting comments on the revised draft skin irritation TG. We ask that you forward these comments to the OECD Secretariat by January 26, 2010 for consideration by the 30 OECD member countries. We request the opportunity to discuss any proposed national position that differs from those provided in the comments before the national position is finalized, and we would appreciate an explanation if there are any comments not included in the U.S. position. We also ask that you share with us any comments provided by U.S. experts outside of ICCVAM so that we can make them available to ICCVAM and the DCIWG for their information.

ICCVAM agency representatives and DCIWG members support the revised draft TG and concur with most of the recent revisions. The comments that are provided are limited, but are important edits to be included in the final TG. We appreciate the opportunity for the ICCVAM to provide comments on the revised draft TG. Please feel free to contact us at any time if you have questions or concerns regarding these comments.

Sincerely,

/s/

William S. Stokes, D.V.M., D.A.C.L.A.M.
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Enclosures